

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please amend the claims as set forth in the following listing. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims for the present application:

1-23. (Canceled).

24. (Currently Amended) A vertebral fixing system comprising:

a spinal rod;

a connecting part including a first longitudinal member and a second longitudinal member moveable relative to each other between a first position and a second position, the first longitudinal member and the second longitudinal member configured to capture the spinal rod when in the second position;

a ligature having a first end directly attached to the connecting part and a second end opposite the first end, at least one of the first longitudinal member and the second longitudinal member having an orifice to receive the second end of the ligature therethrough to define a loop between the first end and the second end of the ligature, the loop extending from the connecting part and being adjustable in size when the first longitudinal member and the second longitudinal member are in the first position, wherein the first longitudinal member and the second longitudinal member are joined by a hinge for movement between the first position and the second position, wherein the hinge includes a pivot pin rotatably connecting a first end of the first longitudinal member and a first end of the second longitudinal member, and wherein the first end of the ligature is ligated around the pivot pin; and

a lock to secure the first longitudinal member and the second longitudinal member in the second position with the rod captured therebetween, the loop being fixed in size when the first longitudinal member and the second longitudinal member are secured in the second position with the rod therebetween.

25-27. (Canceled).

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the connecting part defines a

passage configured to capture the spinal rod when the first longitudinal member and the second longitudinal member are in the second position.

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28, wherein the orifice in the at least one of the first and second longitudinal members is in communication with the passage.

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28, wherein the passage is defined by a groove in an internal face of at least one of the first longitudinal member and the second longitudinal member.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the other of at least one of the first longitudinal members and the second longitudinal member has a second orifice defined therein to receive the second end of the ligature therethrough.

32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the ligature is a flexible strip.

33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the flexible strip is made of a polymer.

34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the lock includes:

a first bore through the first longitudinal member;

a second bore through the second longitudinal member, wherein the second bore is aligned with the first bore when the first longitudinal member and second longitudinal member are in the second position;

a screw extending between the first bore and the second bore.